

# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

# MALTA

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In 1999, Malta's mineral industry mainly relied on trade and the storage of crude oil and refinery products, as well as other nonfuel mineral commodities. The mineral industry, which consisted mainly of limestone and salt production, contributed less than 0.5% to the gross national product.

Limestone quarries produced crushed aggregates for use in road construction, and lime manufacture and as a concrete additive. Construction companies produced building blocks from their own quarries by using globigerina limestone, which

is known locally as franka stone. These blocks were used for local construction purposes (table 1).

Malta was an important transshipment center in the Mediterranean area. The country's strategic location in the middle of shipping lanes that connect the two ends of the Mediterranean Sea and natural ports were its major assets.

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Malta, see the 1998 Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Mineral Industries of Europe and Central Eurasia.

TABLE 1  
MALTA: ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/

Commodity 2/		1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Limestone	thousand metric tons	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Salt	metric tons	30	30	30	30	30

1/ Table includes data available through March 2000.

2/ In addition to listed commodities, a small amount of cement, fertilizer, lime, and plaster is produced, but available information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output levels.